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There are few things more trying to that great virtue, patience, than a large public aquarium, especially in its preparation, before it is ready for the reception of animals. It is to this lack of patience on the part of the directors of the Royal Westminster Aquarium, and to their absolute refusal to allow me to have proper engineering assistance during its construction, and to general mismanagement, that its present confused state, and its unsatisfactory condition in every way, is due. On this account I resigned my post of adviser to the society, as I found it useless to advise when advice was recklessly disregarded. Aquarium work, being hydraulic engineering on a small scale, is essentially the work of an engineer, and not that of an architect, unless he is also an engineer and a mathematician. There is for aquaria a great and important future, both as regards their influence on science and as pecuniary speculations, if indeed, as I much doubt, there can be any real severing of these two interests. Success, however, must always be the result of a careful study and representation of what nature does, and of a strict avoidance of the recent heresies to which I have in this communication adverted. — *Popular Science Review*.

RECENT LITERATURE.

TWO YEARS IN CALIFORNIA.¹— This book contains apparently a reliable and useful account of California, its scenic and climatic features, its people, with hints for tourists and settlers, and a candid chapter on the Chinese in California. The authoress gives these people credit for a business sagacity, fidelity, industry, and economy which render them a desirable class of immigrants. By their aid, it is claimed, the natural wealth of California has been advanced beyond what it would otherwise have been by a quarter of a century. The literary execution of the book is not rarely capable of improvement, but the work is the result of an honest attempt to impart the fruits of close observation during a two years' residence in California.

COOK'S MANUAL OF THE APIARY.²— A cheap and reliable manual of bee-keeping has been needed by amateurs and beginners in the art, and here we have in print Professor Cook's lectures on the subject, delivered annually to his students, forming a guide which we can unhesitatingly commend as sufficiently scientific and practical. The Italian variety is recommended as greatly superior to the German. As regards the treatment of foul brood, we would inquire whether carbolic acid or

¹ *Two Years in California*. By MARY CONE. With Illustrations. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. 1876. 12mo, pp. 238. \$1.75.

² *Manual of the Apiary*. By A. J. COOK. Lansing, Mich. 1876. 8vo, pp. 59.